to a mRNA that displays a higher abundance in brain, testis, kidney and skeletal muscle RNA. This cDNA encodes a protein of 220 amino acids that is referred to herein as dual specificity phosphatase-14, or DSP-14. DSP-14 shows significant homology to other MAP-kinase phosphatases, as shown by the sequence comparison presented in Figure 3.

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 2.

Please amend claims 4, 6, and 11 to read as follows:

4. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 3.

6. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising the sequence of DSP-14 set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or a variant thereof that differs in one or more amino acid deletions, additions, insertions or substitutions at no more than 25% of the residues in SEQ ID NO:2, such that the polypeptide retains the ability to dephosphorylate an activated MAP-kinase.

11. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that detectably hybridizes to the complement of the sequence recited in SEQ ID NO:1 under moderately stringent conditions that include a wash in 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 50 °C for 15 minutes.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-49 are currently pending. By telephone conversation pursuant to a restriction requirement, applicants provisionally elected, without traverse, Group II (claims 2-14). Applicants hereby affirm election of Group II. Please cancel non-elected claims 1 and 15-49, and also please cancel claim 2, without prejudice to the filing of any divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application. Claims 4, 6, and 11 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter, without limitation, encompassed by applicants' invention. Support for the amended claims may be found in the specification, for